Government of Madras

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1250, 14th August 1923

Floods (South Kanara)—Bantwal, Panemangalore, Uppinangadi and neighbouring villages Collector's report.

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READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter from G. W. WELLS, Esq., M.A., I.C.S., Collector of South Kanara, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Bantwal, the 9th August 1923, Ref. C. No. 4295/23-V-7.

In continuation of my telegrams of 8th and 9th August 1923, I regret to report that serious floods occurred in the Netravathi river at Bantwal on the night of 6th and 7th August and began to subside on the night of the 7th at about 10 p.m. Bantwal has suffered very severely. About a thousand people of all classes have lost their homes. The Post and Telegraph office is in ruins and large stretches of streets—sometimes whole streets—have fallen down. The sufferers were received in the Gowd Saraswath temple, the Deputy Tahsildar's office, the hospital and the travellers' bungalow. There is still some congestion as to accommodation, but some of the sufferers are beginning to leave the place for Mangalore and villages. They have been fed by the temple authorities and there is plenty of food for the present. For a whole day the police lines were isolated from the town and there were complaints of looting by night by Mappillas in boats, and for the first two days scarcely any boats were procurable in the town. I only saw two, one of which was plying up and down the streets and moving people out of their houses, while the other was being loaded with property. The Inspector and two or three constables were in the town, but one of the Sub-Inspectors was cut off in the country and the other was isolated in a part of the town called Jakaribettu and could not get in. The Abkāri Inspector, Mangalore Circle, who was on his way to the toddy sales at Beltangady was isolated on a hill behind the police lines with a large number of persons whom he collected on the hill on the early morning of the 7th. He reached Bantwal travellers' bungalow on the 8th morning.

The number of deaths from the floods at Bantwal is estimated at four, but names and particulars are not available.

Bantwal is an important rice centre. Most of the rice stored there has either been lost or spoiled and the effect on the future feeding of the district may be serious.

I went to Panemangalore this morning. Three divisions of the Panemangalore girder bridge are gone and I am informed that the water rose to about a foot above the deck of the bridge. I saw a tree stump entangled just below the deck of the bridge this morning.

Panemangalore has also suffered heavily. Here too whole streets have been laid low and I found the travellers' bungalow full of refugees.

I have to-day received a report from the Stationary Deputy Tahsildar of Puttur respecting Uppinangadi which shows that that town also is in ruins. He states that the police station, the hospital, the two boys' schools, the garbha grahas of two temples and a few substantial buildings are alone standing and that other buildings have either wholly or partly fallen. The Post office has collapsed and the records have been lost. The Forest Range office with its records has been washed away. The records of the Abkāri Sub-Inspector and the Revenue Inspector have been washed away. The medical stores of the hospital have been destroyed or damaged. The loss of rice is estimated at 2,500 muras, i.e., about Rs. 18,000. The report

shows that one life has been lost, that of a Mappilla woman, but so far as could be ascertained no others. About 500 people are reported to have been rendered homeless and to have been accommodated in the travellers' bungalow and tile factory, and a private house. It is stated that they are being fed, but whether this can be done for more than two or three days seems doubtful. The loss of cattle is reported to have been heavy, and the floods are said to have also destroyed a few houses in Hirebandadi, Neckiladi, Illanthila and Bajathur villages.

I enclose a copy of the Puttur Stationary Deputy Tahsildar's report. I am going to Uppinangadi the day after to-morrow.

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Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement), H. No. 2161/23-3, dated 11th August 1923.

N. Macmichael, Esq., I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement.

Read—the following paper:—

Telegram from the Collector of South Kanara, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement, dated 10th August 1923.

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Order—No. 1250, Revenue, dated 14th August 1923.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

E. W. Legh,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement).
" Public Department.
" Public Works Department (Irrigation).
Editors' Table.

Forwarded to the

(By order)

Superintendent.

6657/4 To Home Tinla,

11.8.23.

Del 8.p.c. 11/8/23.

Continuation of my telegram 6657–2 9th instant. Reported floods at Uppinangady 5. Kanara District, Seventh. One life lost. Relief measures in force. People being fed. Greater part of town in ruins Panemangalore Bridge breached

Yule. 11.8.23.

WB EVR 11/8/23

(1) Issue this telegram
(2) Note copies & file this telegram.
6 H.M.S.

G

REVENUE 1605

N.I.

Rec'd 13.8.23

U.S.

For orders whether the above telegram may be issued, Copies of the Collr's telegram Circulated to H.M.S and the file then transferred to Rev

I. Yes: letter send thro' usual steps.

EVR 11/8/23

Yule. 11.8.23

We have told Govt quite enough I think. Transfer to Rev. after circulating copy to H.M.s.

B.

Rev

Pd 6657–6
13.8.23

Report-from Mr. S. D'Souza, Stationary Deputy ------
Tahsildar in charge, Puttur.
To-the Collector of South Kanara, Mangalore.
Dated-Puttur, 8th August 1923.
No.-

Reference:- Floods 7th instant - Uppinangadi.

On receiving information yesterday noon that Uppinangadi was in high floods myself, Mr. Padmappa, the Sub ---- Inspector of Puttur, the doctor, Ramappa, Revenue Inspector of Uppinangadi and some others hastened to Uppinangadi. The town appeared to be submerged but as the current in the ---- river was too strong no boatman dared to take us across. At last at about 5 P.M. we secured a boat with great difficulty and at a great cost. Myself, Mr. Padmappa and Ramappa only succeeded in reaching the town. The whole town was under water. The rise of the water was 12 feet higher than that reached during the 1st flood, a limit not known or heard by any person here. If the two rivers overflow and then the water meet at a point ~~each~~ east of the temple, the event is taken to be unusual as occurring very rare and on such occasions a Puja is performed in the temple. The rise of the water --- this time was about 15 feet higher than that level.

Damage.

The whole town is in ruins, the only buildings standing being the Police station, the Hospital, the stone built shop opposite to the station, the "Garbagraha" of the two -- temples of the town, the two boys' schools, the main part of the house of one Gopal Bhat, 2 warehouses at the eastern --- side and the Tile factory. All other houses and shops have wholly or partly fallen down so much so the whole town may - be said to be a mass of ruins. As the water rose suddenly during the night of the 6th instant and continued rising till noon yesterday, the people only ran for their lives leaving all their things behind. The Forest Range Officer has been wholly washed away with all the records and things. The - Post office has totally collapsed with the records either --- destroyed or washed away. The records of the Abkari Sub --

Inspector and the Revenue Inspector have also been washed away. The cupboard and the Almyras in the hospital have all tumbled down and the stock of medicine ~~and~~ all destroyed or damaged. The water rose about 6 feet high --- from the level of the verandah of the hospital. The --- records, arms &c. in the police station have not been --- washed away through the pluck of the Sub Inspector who -- secured the door before leaving. water rose to about -- 6 feet above the verandah of the station; luckily there - were no prisoners in the lockup. Provision in the ----- houses and shops have all been destroyed. The loss in - rice alone being estimated at 2500 muras. Luckily as the two warehouses escaped damage, there are provisions to -- prevent the people from starvation. As the people had - no time to release the cattle very few have been saved.

Lives.

So far as I could ascertain no life has been lost, there were 3 persons caught in the debris when we arrived on the scene. We tried our utmost ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to save them by going on the boats during the night. Atlast they were saved on the subsiding of the water. The Police Sub Inspector, the Ranger, the Abkari Sub Inspector, the --- constables of Uppinangadi saved hundreds of people with the help of Mr. Venkappa Rai, Mr. Hukra Rai, clerk, Marshal Pais, Krishna Rao and Govinda Bhat. They mention to me that one Hamabba alias Putha Momu Beary of Uppinangadi rendered them all help by taking his boat and himself saving some lives. Just while I was starting I was informed that a dead body of a moplah woman was discovered near the mosque. It is sai' that the dead body was washed down the river

Relief.

All the persons were accommodated in the Tile Factory, Travellers' Bungalow and the house of Mr. Venkappa Rai which had not been reached by the floods. About 500 people have been rendered houseless. They were all fed yesterday at the cost of Mr. Bellipady Hukra alias Narsinga Rai and he had -- also clothed the sufferers at a cost of about Rs.100/-.

Temple, though all the surrounding buildings of the temple and his quarters have been washed away has at my request --- undertaken to feed all these persons for another two days. As I found the Tile Factory and Venkappa Rai's house overcrowded I have requested the local overseer to locate some people in the schools if they are safe after obtaining the President's sanction. I have requested Mr. Hukra Rai to -- remain in Uppinangadi and look to the relief of those ------ persons. On my way back this noon I met the President of the Taluk Board, Uppinangadi going over there. I informed him of the arrangements I have made and requested him to take -- measures for the further relief of the sufferers. I am ---- appealing to the people of Puttur for help to the sufferers.

Sanitation.

A lot of carcasses of cattle were found this morning in the debris. There was only one local scavanger there. As many carcasses as were found have been removed by the --- Paraihas. The President of the Taluk Board, Puttur has been requested to send some scavvangers from Puttur for the ----- purpose.

Salvage.

People have commenced removing the debris and recovering their articles. They are complaining that some of the articles have been stolen or misappropriated by the ---- boatmen. The Police are on their alert and Mr. Padmappa has already deputed some constables from the Puttur station to - render help to the Uppinangadi Police in keeping watch over the town and recovering the lost articles.

I have information that in addition to the Uppinangadi Town, the floods have caused havoc in Illanthila, Bajathur, Herebandady and Neckiladi villages and about a dozen houses in each have been washed away. I returned to meet the ---- Collector who was expected here and to represent the matter to him personally. But as I learn that the Collector has - returned to Mangalore, I am proceeding to the last said ----

villages and shall try to give some relief to the sufferers

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there.

As the Revenue Inspector, Uppinangadi is engaged in the monsoon class and as the Puttur Revenue Inspector who is in charge is not fit to do any useful work on account of his ill health, I request that one of the Labour Revenue ------- Inspectors preferrably A. Thimmappa may be kindly deputed to collect the necessary information about losses etc. to be -- furnished to the Collector according to his recent orders -- and for relief work.

M.D'S.10/8:

Compd 10-8-23

When received for Fair-copying.		
When copied	14/8	Dsp
When examined	14-8	Ms
When signed		
When despatched	27/8	

Floods (S. Kanara) – Restoration of Uppinangadi & neighbouring villages – Collector's reports.

188

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ....., dated ..... 192 .

" " " " ..... " ..... 192 .

READ ALSO:–

C. No. 16024/23, From the Coll of S. Kanara, Re No. 4295/23-V-7, dated 9-8- 1923

" " 16068/23 " " Board of Rev, Rep " 14216/23-3 " 11-8- 1923

" " ..... " " ..... " 192

Mins

ORDER. No. 1250, dated 14-8- 1923.

P

Please issue today in MISS. to the Board only & then return. It has been sent to Press today.

Ms 14/8/23

Recorded.
Ms
14823

Ms
13523

Work
13.8.23.

Note.

The portion enclosed in brackets on p 3 of the Dy. Tahsildar's report on pp 4 to 7 of the Board's Referee on p 8 of need not be published.

Ms 14/8/23

DESPATCHED 14 AUG 1923 To Board of Rev 14/8
14.

To the Board of Rev (L & Estt)
" Public Depts
" P. W. D. (5).
E. T.

SD 27/8/23

~~ORDINARY~~ ~~REFERENCE~~ URGENT (a).

.....Revenue.....Department.

16 AUG 1923

Current No 1604-B/23 dated 13.8.23 ....192 .

G.O. No. 1250-R dated 14.8.1923 ....192 .

Number of MS. pages sent (b) Correspondence...Five pages.... (b1) Notes.....nil.....

Brief subject. Floods (S. Kanara).....

(c) Number of copies required when struck off (*not including copies for volumes and editors' table which are retained in the Press*).	E. T. copies to supply requisitions for purchase by the public.	Complete correspondence and orders.	Notes.
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(*b*) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

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[P.T.O.]

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In continuation of my telegrams of 8th and 9th August 1923, I regret to report that serious floods occurred in the Netravathi river at Bantwal on the night of 6th and 7th August and began to subside on the night of the 7th at about 10 p.m. Bantwal has suffered very severely. About a thousand people of all classes have lost their homes. The Post and Telegraph office is in ruins and large stretches of streets—sometimes whole streets—have fallen down. The sufferers were received in the Gowd Saraswath temple, the Deputy Tahsildar's office, the hospital and the travellers' bungalow. There is still some congestion as to accommodation, but some of the sufferers are beginning to leave the place for Mangalore and villages. They have been fed by the temple authorities and there is plenty of food for the present. For a whole day the police lines were isolated from the town and there were complaints of looting by night by Mappillas in boats, and for the first two days scarcely any boats were procurable in the town. I only saw two, one of which was plying up and down the streets and moving people out of their houses, while the other was being loaded with property. The Inspector and two or three constables were in the town, but one of the Sub-Inspectors was cut off in the country and the other was isolated in a part of the town called Jakaribettu and could not get in. The Abkāri Inspector, Mangalore Circle, who was on his way to the toddy sales at Beltangady was isolated on a hill behind the police lines with a large number of persons whom he collected on the hill on the early morning of the 7th. He reached Bantwal travellers' bungalow on the 8th morning.

The number of deaths from the floods at Bantwal is estimated at four, but names and particulars are not available.

Bantwal is an important rice centre. Most of the rice stored there has either been lost or spoiled and the effect on the future feeding of the district may be serious.

I went to Panemangalore this morning. Three divisions of the Panemangalore girder bridge are gone and I am informed that the water rose to about a foot above the deck of the bridge. I saw a tree stump entangled just below the deck of the bridge this morning.

Panemangalore has also suffered heavily. Here too whole streets have been laid low and I found the travellers' bungalow full of refugees.

I have to-day received a report from the Stationary Deputy Tahsildar of Puttur respecting Uppinangadi which shows that that town also is in ruins. He states that the police station, the hospital, the two boys' schools, the garbha grahas of two temples and a few substantial buildings are alone standing and that other buildings have either wholly or partly fallen. The Post office has collapsed and the records have been lost. The Forest Range office with its records has been washed away. The records of the Abkāri Sub-Inspector and the Revenue Inspector have been washed away. The medical stores of the hospital have been destroyed or damaged. The loss of rice is estimated at 2,500 muras, i.e., about Rs. 18,000. The report

shows that one life has been lost, that of a Mappilla woman, but so far as could be ascertained no others. About 500 people are reported to have been rendered homeless and to have been accommodated in the travellers' bungalow and tile factory, and a private house. It is stated that they are being fed, but whether this can be done for more than two or three days seems doubtful. The loss of cattle is reported to have been heavy, and the floods are said to have also destroyed a few houses in Hirebandadi, Neckiladi, Illanthila and Bajathur villages.

I enclose a copy of the Puttur Stationary Deputy Tahsildar's report. I am going to Uppinangadi the day after to-morrow.

Heavy floods are reported to have occurred at Mangalore on 7th August 1923, lasting till 8 p.m. The railway line breached and houses collapsed at Kudroli, Sultan's Battery, Bolar and Jeppu. I hear that a natural bar opened opposite to the Sultan's Battery near the site of the old bar. I have had no news yet of Coondapoor and Udipi taluks.

II

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement), H. No. 2161/23-3, dated 11th August 1923.

N. Macmichael, Esq., I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement.

Read—the following paper|:—

Telegram from the Collector of South Kanara, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement, dated 10th August 1923.

Reported serious floods at Uppinangadi seventh. One life lost. People being fed. Greater part town in ruins. Neighbouring villages also suffered. Panemangalore bridge breached. Three sections gone.

Reference.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Reference No. H. 2161/23-2, dated 10th August 1923.

S. Wadsworth,
Secretary.

Order—No. 1250, Revenue, dated 14th August 1923.

Miscellaneous.	Recorded.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

E. W. Legh,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement).
,, Public Department.
,, Public Works Department (Irrigation).
Editors' Table.

Forwarded to the

(By order)

Superintendent.

Government of Madras

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1250, 14th August 1923

Floods (South Kanara)—Bantwal, Panemangalore, Uppinangadi and neighbouring villages—Collector's report.

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